



GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH  
ABSTRACT

Fisheries – Streamlining the procedure for release of captured foreign fishing cargo, boats, crew and fishermen – Appointment of Nodal officers at the State and District Level – Constitution of a Standing Committee and certain guidelines – Orders – Issued.

---

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, DAIRY DEVELOPMENT & FISHERIES (F.I) DEPARTMENT

**G.O. (Ms) No. 26**

**Date:30.04.2012.**

**Read the following:-**

1. Minutes of the Inter-ministerial meeting on India-Sri Lanka Fisheries Cooperation held on 28.09.2011.
2. From the Foreign Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi Letter No. 1/i/415/5/2009, dated. 11.10.2011 addressed to the Chief Secretary to Government of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.
3. Government D.O.Lt.No. No. 6269/F.I(1)/2011, Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development & Fisheries Department, dated.19.10.2011.
4. From the Commissioner of Fisheries Letter No. 7921/J.1/2011, dated. 31.10.2011 & 23.12.2011.

\*\*\*

**ORDER:**

In pursuance of the decision taken at an inter-ministerial meeting on India – Srilanka Fisheries Cooperation by Ministry Chaired by the Joint Secretary (BSM), Ministry of External Affairs (BSM) Division on 28.09.2011 at New Delhi regarding streamlining the procedure for release of captured foreign fishing cargo, boats, crew and fishermen, the Government hereby nominate the Principle Secretary to Government, Home Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh as a Nodal officer at the State Level to liaise with the concerned agencies such as Coast Guards, Customs, Intelligence Bureau, State Police etc., in the matter of furnishing details of foreign vessels and men apprehended to the Government of India. He would be responsible for coordinating the activities of different agencies at the State level involved in giving clearances to such foreign vessels/nationals.

**A. At the State Level**

2. The Nodal Officer will discharge the following functions:

- (i) Prompt communication to the Central Government regarding details of vessels/men apprehended.
- (ii) Coordinate for timely completion of Joint Interrogation and communication of its report with the recommendation of State Government to the Central Government.
- (iii) Sorting out any issues between the different agencies at the field level.
- (iv) Liaise with different concerned agencies such as Coast Guard, Customs, Intelligence Bureau and Special Branch of the State Police, etc., and have a periodical review, preferably once in a fortnight, to update and review the progress on action taken on such foreign vessels/nationals apprehended.

(P.T.O)

## **B. District Level Committee/ Joint Interrogation Committee**

3. The Government also direct that in each of the Coastal districts a District Level Committee/ Joint Interrogation Committee shall be constituted with District Collector and the District Magistrate as the Nodal Officer at the District Level for coordinating the joint interrogation committee. Joint Interrogation Committee shall comprise of the following officials:-

- |       |   |   |          |
|-------|---|---|----------|
| (i)   | District Collector and Magistrate   | - | Chairman |
| (ii)  | Customs   | - | Member   |
| (iii) | Coast Guards  | - | Member   |
| (iv)  | Immigration   | - | Member   |
| (v)   | State Police (Special Branch)   | - | Member   |
| (vi)  | Intelligence Bureau   | - | Member   |
| (vii) | Fisheries Department (District Fisheries Officer or his nominee (Fisheries Development Officer) nominated by Commissioner of Fisheries) etc., | - | Member   |

4. The Joint Interrogation Committee should meet within a week of the apprehension of the foreign vessels/national to finalize its finding.

5. The District Nodal Officer will discharge the following functions:

- (i) Ensure timely convening of the Joint interrogation
- (ii) Detention of the Foreign fishermen in the Detention centers till their repatriation on their release after acquittal (or) on expiry of the conviction period and Communication of joint interrogation findings to the State Government.
- (iii) Issue of transit permit to leave India for their our Country after obtaining clearances from State level, Central level and travel documents from the concerned Consulate/Embassy located in the country.
- (iv) Pending their deportation and after their release ensuing that they do not go out of view and keeping them under surveillance.

## **C. Standing Committee**

6. The Government also direct that a standing committee shall be constituted with the following members to conduct a periodical review of the progress on the action taken on foreign vessels/national apprehended.

- |       |  |   |          |
|-------|--|---|----------|
| (i)   | Principal Secretary to Government, Home Department           | - | Chairman |
| (ii)  | Commandant, Coast Guard, Visakhapatnam                       | - | Member   |
| (iii) | The Commissioner/Director of Fisheries of A.P                | - | Member   |
| (iv)  | An official from Intelligence Bureau                         | - | Member   |
| (v)   | An officer representing Special Branch of State Police, A.P. | - | Member   |
| (vi)  | Zonal Commissioner, Fisheries Survey of India                | - | Member   |
| (vii) | Inspector General of Police (Coastal Security) A.P.-         | - | Member   |

7. The Standing Committee shall have its meeting once in a month. The Committee may however have its meeting at shorter intervals based on the need that may arise.

8. Government also direct that wherever the vessels and fishermen are suspected or found to have indulged in smuggling and other related undesirable activities, clearance from customs, Narcotics Division etc. as the case may be should specifically obtain for release of such foreign vessels/nationals.

**D. Logistics:**

9. The Committee members are eligible for Travelling Allowance/Daily Allowance as per rules in force and expenditure on Travelling Allowance/Daily Allowance shall be debited to the Head of account to which their pay and allowances are debited.

**E. Time Schedule to be observed:**

10. The following time schedules shall be observed for different stages of action to be taken ( time from day 1 of apprehension of foreign vessel/nationals):

1	Report of apprehension of foreign vessels/nationals	Within 48 hrs. through Fax/Telex/E-mail etc.
2	Conduct of Joint Interrogation and Communication of its findings and recommendations to the State Government.	Within 15 days
3	Communication of the comprehensive report and specific recommendation by State Government to Government of India.	Within 30 days

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

S.BHALE RAO  
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To  
All members through Commissioner of Fisheries,  
Hyderabad.  
The Commissioner of Fisheries, Hyderabad.  
SF/SC.

// FORWARDED :: BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER

**MANUAL OF INSTRUCTIONS TO DEAL WITH THE FOREIGN FISHERMEN/  
CREW APPREHENDED IN THE TERRITORIAL WATERS OF INDIA**

## **1. Objective:**

In order to evolve an efficient procedure for streamlining the procedure for release of captured foreign fishing cargo, boats, crew and fishermen the Government of Andhra Pradesh have proposed to institutionalize a Joint Interrogation Committee (JIC) mechanism to take efforts/measures for release and repatriation of such fishermen if found to have no incriminating evidence with them.

## **2. Introduction:**

Fishermen from foreign countries like Sri Lanka, Burma, Bangladesh etc., sometimes stray into Indian territorial waters. This may happen due to adverse weather conditions, engine repairs etc. They are even unaware of the fact that they have strayed into Indian territorial waters. However the intrusion either as an illegal immigrant or with some other designs can not be ruled out.

Sri Lankan fishermen are often apprehended on charges of fishing related violations in the coastal area of Andhra Pradesh. The Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard apprehend the Sri Lankan fishermen who cross the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) and enter into Indian Waters. The apprehended Sri Lankan fishermen are booked by the State Police authorities under the Foreigners Act and are imprisoned for a period ranging from 6-12 months by orders of the respective courts along with a penalty ranging from Rs.25,000 to Rs.50,000/-. In case the fishermen (or owner of the boat) fail to pay the imposed penalty they are subjected to additional months of imprisonment.

The Sri Lankan External Affairs Ministry has taken up this issue of release and repatriation of Sri Lankan fishermen with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

## **3. Apprehension:**

The foreign fishermen so strayed or drifted into the Indian territorial waters may be captured for interrogation either by Coast Guards, Customs, Immigration or Police Officials. In few cases some of the foreign fishermen may reach shore by swimming because their boats might have capsized. In these cases they will be captured by the local police.

## **4. Acts in force:**

At present the apprehended cases are being dealt with under any one or more of the following:

1. Foreigners Act/Immigration Act.
2. Passport Act
3. Customs Act
4. Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of fishing by foreign vessels) Act 1981.

### **4.1. Officers authorized to apprehend them:**

The officers authorized to apprehend them are detailed in the table annexed. (*Annexure-I*).

P.T.O

## **4.2. Dealing of apprehended cases:**

### **a. Existing procedure:**

On sighting a foreign boat in Indian territorial waters, the boat is boarded and thoroughly rummaged. The crew are interrogated for the motive for being in Indian waters. Usually, the apprehended foreign fishermen, found in Indian waters/Shore are arrested by marine police/coast guard/navy and remanded to the judicial custody and they would be dealt with under any one of the above Acts. After disposal of the court cases, based on the judgment they will be punished if found guilty. After undergoing the punishment they will be repatriated.

The role of Fisheries Department is to certify whether seized boat is a fishing boat or not, seaworthiness of the boat at the time of departure to their own country and for assessment of quantity and value of fish. After the interrogation the marine police will send a report to the State Government and state government in turn will send a report to Central Government. The Central Government gets necessary clearances from the concerned embassies. The Coast guard finally repatriate the fishermen.

### **4.3. Recommended revised procedure:**

**4.3.1.** The captured fishermen after necessary interrogation, investigation and disposal of the cases should be repatriated as early as possible to maintain good relationship with the neighboring countries. To streamline the procedure in such affairs in Andhra Pradesh it is proposed to constitute a State Level Standing Committee with Principal Secretary to Government, Home Department as Chairman and Joint Interrogation Committees with District Collectors of the coastal districts as the Nodal Officer to liaise with the agencies that deal with the apprehension of foreign fishermen in Indian Territorial Waters and arrange for repatriation. The details of the committees and responsibilities are annexed (*Annexure-II*).

Further it is proposed to educate all the apprehended authorities on various acts and various legal provisions.

The following are the steps to be taken for streamlining the process relating to the captured fishermen:

#### **4.3.2.: Interrogation:**

##### **4.3.2.(a): The cases connected with illegal activities:**

It shall be dealt with as per the existing procedure, namely, apprehension, arrest and remand of the captured foreign fishermen/crews to the judicial custody. The cases will be dealt with under relevant Act.

##### **4.3.2.(b): Cases concerned with the innocent fishermen:**

After apprehension,

- The stranded fishermen found in Indian Territorial Waters/Shore should be taken to the nearest Police Station/Police Check post or Immigration Check-post.
- The Interrogation by Joint Interrogation Committee should be done either at Jail or remanded judicial custody.
- It should be ensured that the apprehended Foreign fishermen are jointly interrogated by the State Police/ Intelligence Bureau (IB) and other concerned.

- For interrogation, the District Level Nodal Officers i.e. the District Collector as the Chairman, with the officials of Customs, Coast Guard, Immigration, State Police (Special Branch) Intelligence Bureau and Fisheries Department should conduct timely Joint Interrogation within a week of the apprehension of the foreign vessels/fishermen crews to finalize the findings.
- The Nodal officer should then communicate the findings of the Committee to the State Government.

The District Level Officers conducting the Joint Interrogation should be sensitized to the various aspects of the issue, viz.,

- (i) Rescue at sea by Coast Guard/Indian fishermen
- (ii) Strayal into Andhra Pradesh waters by act of nature and their landing on the shore and
- (iii) Deliberate strayal and fishing into Indian waters.

#### **Cases dealt under Maritime Zone of India (MZI) Act:**

Fishermen rescued at Sea within Indian EEZ are never charged under MZI Act if they are marooned/distressed by engine trouble or drift or for any reasons. They are rescued and given relief and assistance and handed over to the Immigration Department/nearest Police station on arrival in the Port.

If any foreign nationals or trawlers are engaged in fishing in Indian Waters they can be apprehended by the Authorized Officer of Coast Guard listed in MZI Act. They could decide whether they have undertaken fishing in that area by inspection of the fishing gears (wet condition of the net) freshness of the fish and presence on board, variety of the fishes available in that area. If sufficient evidence is available for showing violation, they are to be dealt with under MZI and Immigration Act also. Implementation of both these Acts are concurrent. If the vessel is not conducting fishing in that area, they will be assisted by Coast Guard to move to the International Waters, since all the fishing vessels have the right of passage in Indian Territorial and EEZ waters.

#### **Cases dealt under Customs Act:**

If there are any contraband (illegal imports and smuggled goods) articles, they will be dealt with under Customs Act. After apprehension, they will be handed over to local Police Station within 24 hours on reaching the shore.

In either case the local police will be given documentary evidence for their offense with photographs and ship-log to know the nature, gravity and position of offence etc. Often the local police are not able to comprehend these details. There is a need to train them in the implementation of the MZI Act.

The foreign vessel should have a valid permit and license. Foreign nationals found fishing in India Waters should have valid passports and they should follow the restriction on mesh size, types of nets, prohibited zones, prohibited species etc., and on the 12 nautical miles from the base line which is the territorial waters.

#### **Cases dealt under Foreigners Act:**

The apprehended Sri Lankan fishermen are booked by the State Police authorities under the Foreigners Act extends only to the territories as specified in the First Schedule to the Constitution of India and it does not extend to the territorial waters and that cases against foreign fishermen apprehended in the Indian Waters should be registered under the MZI Act and not under the Foreigners Act.

The Customs Act is applicable up to 30 nautical miles, while 200 miles from the base line is the EEZ zone and after 200 miles is the International waters.

#### **4.3.2.(c): Speedy procedure for investigation:**

After apprehension by the Security Agencies like Indian Coast Guard, Indian Navy, Customs, Coastal Security wing of the State Police etc., the stranded fishermen found in Indian Territorial water/shores they should be taken to the nearest Police Station/Immigration Check-post for further necessary action.

The apprehended foreign fishermen

- Found in Indian Maritime Zones are to be arrested by the police.
- The First Information Report (FIR) should be filed immediately.
- Arrested person should be brought before a Magistrate within 24 hours of arrest.
- The Police authorities upon filing a FIR should immediately inform their higher authorities viz., Superintendent of Police of their jurisdiction, Commissioner of Police etc.
- These authorities within 24 hours will inform the District Level Committee (DLC) concerned and the State Level Committee (SLC).
- The DLC shall within 48 hours co-ordinate with the Superintendent of Police concerned for the investigation of the case.
- The Police authorities investigating the case shall complete the investigations in consultation with the DLC within 15 days.
- If upon investigations such fishermen are found to be innocent then the Police Officer investigating the case shall within two days of such finding, file a closure report to the court concerned along with a recommendation for the release of the case property viz., boat etc. to the lawful owner/claimant.
- Upon receiving the closure report, the court will pass on order for the release of the arrested fishermen and regarding the case properly.

Once an arrested fishermen is found to be innocent by the investigating officer conducting investigations with the help of DLC, it is the task of the DLC to immediately inform such findings of innocence to the SLC so that further action regarding the deportation/repatriation may be initiated without undue delay.

#### **4.3.2.(d): Cases of fishermen who are not found innocent :**

Such cases will be dealt with according to law. The investigating officer shall file charge sheet within one month. The DLC will ensure that the trial is conducted without undue delay. Such cases should be informed by the Nodal Officer to the SLC from time to time.

### **4.4: Repatriation:**

#### **4.4.1: Repatriation Procedure:**

The repatriation procedure should be adhered to in such a way to ensure speedy return of the foreign fishermen.

- The concurrence of the concerned authorities at the State Level and at the Central Government level should be ensured in a time bound manner.
- Travel documents for the distressed person can be obtained from their consulate/Embassy located in the country within 15 days from the date of receipt of the clearance from the Government of India.
- The expenditure to be incurred in obtaining travel documents, maintenance and transport on the repatriates can be realized from the Consulate/Embassy concerned.
- After obtaining travel documents the civil authority (District Collectors concerned/Chief Immigration Officer in Chennai Air Sea Port and Ennore) will issue transit permit to leave India for their own country within a period of 10 days.

- The actual repatriation/deportation of the apprehended foreign nationals shall be done within 30 days from the date of receipt of the clearance from the Government of India.
- Since they were under Police Custody/Judicial custody regularization of their stay in India and grant of permission to leave India are mere a formality.
- No VISA Fee is required.

#### **4.4.2.(a) Cases other than Sri Lankan fishermen/crews:**

Based on the findings of Joint Interrogation Committee, necessary proposal will be sent to the Secretary/ Chairman, State Level Committee for early repatriation.

- The Home Department in Secretariat will get the “No Objection” on the repatriation from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India and under intimation from them the Home (Citizen) Department will take necessary action for the withdrawal of case in the Court/Police Station. After withdrawal, the officers concerned in the Immigration Department will arrange for the repatriation of the foreign fishermen vessels after getting the required travel documents from the Consulate/Embassy concerned.
- Till their repatriation, the foreign fishermen may be detained in the Detention Centers and on their release after acquittal (or) on expiry of the conviction period, pending their deportation, they may not go ‘out of view’ and be kept under surveillance. The District Collector of the coastal district concerned who is also the Civil Authority as per Foreigners Act/Rules can maintain separate Detention Camps for the released/distressed foreign fishermen in his jurisdiction being the highest Revenue Authority of the District (District Magistrate).
- The appropriate Department in Secretariat i.e. Home/ General Administration Department will get the No Objection on the repatriation from the Ministry of External Affairs and under intimation from them the Home Department will take necessary action for the withdrawal of case in the Court/Police Station. After withdrawal, the officers concerned in the Immigration department will arrange for the repatriation of the foreign fishermen vessels after getting the required travel documents from the Consulate/Embassy concerned.

#### **4.4.2.(b) Cases of Sri Lankan fishermen:**

Based on the findings of Joint Interrogation Committee, the State Level Standing Committee has to arrange for early repatriation of the foreign fishermen.

#### **4.4.3. Disposal of property of the apprehended foreign fishermen:**

##### **a. Apprehension of foreign fishermen with mechanized boats:**

In case of apprehension of foreign fishermen with mechanized boats, the apprehended foreign fishermen shall be repatriated along with their boats after their release. In case where such mechanized fishing boats are not used for such repatriation then they can be sold out in the presence of Consulate/Embassy representatives concerned and the sale proceeds sent through them within a reasonable time but not exceeding three months.

##### **b. Apprehension of foreign fishermen with boats made of wood/bamboo poles (rafts):**

In case of apprehension of foreign fishermen with boats made of wood/bamboo poles (rafts) the question of disposal does not arise as they will become unserviceable at the time of actual repatriation of the apprehended foreign fishermen.



#### 4.5. Time Frame:

1	Filling First Information Report by the police authorities after apprehension and sending intimation to higher police authorities	Immediate
2	Producing the apprehended and arrested foreign nationals by the police authorities before the Magistrate	Within 24 hours of arrest
3	Report to higher police authorities viz., Superintendent of Police, Commissioner Police etc., to the District Level Committee and State Level Committee	Within 24 hours
4	<b>Commencing investigation</b>	
	District Level Committee shall coordinate with the Superintendent of Police/ Commissioner of Police.	Within 48 hours
5	Completion of investigation by police authorities in consultation with the District Level Committee.	Within 10 days
6	Conduct of Joint Interrogation by District Level Committee and communication of its findings and recommendations to the State Government.	Within 15 days
7	Communication of the comprehensive report and specific recommendations by the State Government to Government of India.	Within 30 days
8	Obtaining travel documents from the Consulate/Embassy after getting concurrence from the Government of India for the release of the foreign nationals.	Within 15 days
9	Issue of transit permit by the District Collector/Chief Immigration Officer after obtaining travel documents to allow the foreign nationals to leave India to their own country.	Within 10 days
10	Completion of process on repatriation/deportation of apprehended foreign nationals after getting clearance from the Government of India.	Within 30 days

Time schedule given should be strictly adhered. Monthly periodicals reports shall be submitted. In turn District officers shall send reports to the Chairman of the State Standing Committee.

In cases connected with retention of the vessels under custody during the time of proceedings, the cost incurred in connection with such vessels should be realized by the authority with whom such vessel was retained from the person/persons convicted/released.

S.BHALE RAO  
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

**Annexure-I**

S. No.	Act	Officers Authorised	Relevant Sections	Punishment
1	Maritime Zone (Regulation of fishing by foreign vessels) Act 1981	All the officers of Coast Guard Act 1978 and commissioned Officers of Indian Navy, Inspector of Police, Andhra Pradesh	Sec. 3	<b>Sec. 10(a)</b> 3 years Imprisonment or Rs.15.00 lakhs fine
2	Foreigners Act 1946	All the officers of Coast Guard Act 1978 and commissioned Officers of Indian Navy, Inspector of Police, Andhra Pradesh	Sec. 3	<b>Sec. 14</b> Imprisonment which may extend to a term of 5 years
3	Passport (Entry into Indian) Act 1920	All the officers of Coast Guard Act 1978 and commissioned Officers of Indian Navy, Inspector of Police, Andhra Pradesh	Sec. 3(2)(a)	<b>Section 12(1) of the passport Act 1967:</b> Imprisonment which may extend to a term of six months or with fine which may extend to Rs. 2000/- or both
4	Customs Act 1962	Customs Officials	Sec. 11	<b>Section III X 112 etc.</b>

S.BHALE RAO  
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

## **Annexure-II**

### **Joint Interrogation Committee Mechanism (JIC):**

#### **Objective:**

In order to evolve an efficient procedure for streamlining the procedure for release of captured foreign fishing cargo, boats, crew and fishermen, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has proposed to take up the following measures to safeguard the interests of Indian fishermen being apprehended in other countries.

To address the issue of Sri Lankan fishermen/crew apprehended by Andhra Pradesh authorities, it is proposed to institutionalize a Joint Interrogation Committee (JIC) mechanism. Under this mechanism, the Joint Interrogation Committee will interrogate apprehended Sri Lankan fishermen and take efforts/measures for release and repatriation of such fishermen if no incrimination evidence is found with them.

### **Joint Interrogation Committee Mechanism (JIC):**

The JIC mechanism will be having the following components:

#### **A. State Level Committee:**

In order to streamline the procedure for release of captured foreign fishing cargo, boats, crew and fishermen, the Government nominate the Principal Secretary to Government, Home Department as the Nodal Officer at the State Level to liaise with the concerned agencies such as Coast Guard, Customs, Intelligence Bureau, State Police etc., in the matter of furnishing details of foreign vessels and men apprehended to the Government of India. The Nodal officer is responsible for coordinating the activities of different agencies at the State Level involved in giving clearances to such foreign vessels/ nationals.

The Nodal Officer will discharge the following functions:

- (i) Prompt communication to the Central Government regarding details of vessels/men apprehended.
- (ii) Coordinate for timely completion of Joint Interrogation and communication of its report with the recommendation of State Government to the Central Government.
- (iii) Sort out any difference between the different agencies at the field level.
- (iv) Liaise with different concerned agencies such as Coast Guard, Customs, Intelligence Bureau and Special Branch of the State Police etc., and have a periodical review, preferable once in a fortnight, to update the Statistical data and to review the progress on action taken on such foreign vessels/nations apprehended.

#### **B. District Level Committee/ Joint Interrogation Committee**

In the Coastal districts the District Collector and District Magistrate will be the Nodal Officer at the District Level. The Nodal officer is responsible for coordinating the joint interrogation committee.

The Joint Interrogation Committee will comprise of the following officials :-

- |   |   |          |
|---|---|----------|
| (i) District Collector and Magistrate   | - | Chairman |
| (ii) Customs  | - | Member   |
| (iii) Coast Guards  | - | Member   |
| (iv) Immigration  | - | Member   |
| (v) State Police (Special Branch)   | - | Member   |
| (vi) Intelligence Bureau  | - | Member   |
| (vii) Fisheries Department (District Fisheries Officer or his nominee (Fisheries Development Officer) nominated by Commissioner of Fisheries) etc., | - | Member   |

The Joint Interrogation Committee will meet within a week of the apprehension of the foreign vessels/national to finalize its finding.

The District Nodal Officer will discharge the following functions:-

- (i) Ensure timely convening of the Joint interrogation
- (ii) Communication of joint interrogation findings to the State Government.
- (iii) Issue of transit permit to leave India for their own country after obtaining clearances from State level, Central level and travel documents from the concerned Consulate/Embassy located in the country.
- (iv) Detaining the foreign fishermen in the Detention centers till their repatriation on their release after acquittal (or) on expiry of the conviction period, pending their deportation, so that they may not go out of view as keeping them under surveillance.

### C. Standing Committee

The Government will constitute a standing committee to made a periodical review of the progress on the action taken on foreign vessels/national apprehended.

The Standing Committee will comprise of the following:-

- |   |   |          |
|---|---|----------|
| (i) Principal Secretary to Government, Home Dept.                           | - | Chairman |
| (ii) Commandant, Coast Guard, Visakhapatnam                                 | - | Member   |
| (iii) The Commissioner/Director of Fisheries of A.P                         | - | Member   |
| (iv) An official from Intelligence Bureau                                   | - | Member   |
| (v) An officer representing Special Branch of State Police, Andhra Pradesh. | - | Member   |
| (vi) Zonal Commissioner, Fisheries Survey of India                          | - | Member   |
| (vii) Inspector General of Police (Coastal Security) Andhra Pradesh.        | - | Member   |

The Standing Committee shall have its meeting once in a month. The Committee may however have its meeting at shorter intervals based on the need that may arise.

**D. Logistics:**

The Committee members are eligible for Travelling Allowance/Daily Allowance as per rules in force and expenditure on Travelling Allowance/Daily Allowance shall be debited to the Head of account to which their pay and allowances are debited.

The Government shall direct that wherever the vessels and fishermen are suspected or found to have indulged in smuggling and other related undesirable activities, clearance from customs, Narcotics Division etc. as the case may be should specifically obtain for release of such foreign vessels/nationals.

**E. Time Schedule to be observed:**

The following time schedules shall be observed for different stages of action to be taken (all time from day 1 of apprehension of foreign vessel/nationals):

1	Report of apprehension of foreign vessels/nationals	Within 48 hrs. through Fax/Telex/E-mail etc.
2	Conduct of Joint Interrogation and Communication of its findings and recommendations to the State Government.	Within 15 days
3	Communication of the comprehensive report and specific recommendation by State Govt. to Govt. of India.	Within 30 days

S.BHALE RAO  
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT